

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mark Weissenborn et al.

For : BUMPER SYSTEM WITH ENERGY ABSORBER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 16-2463.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK WEISSENBOERN ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton

Oct 27/03
Date


Daniel L. Girdwood
Registration No. 34 827
695 Kenmoor, S.E.
Post Office Box 2567
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
(616) 949-9610

DLG/MPD/msj

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. SHA01 P-345A	SERIAL NO.
	APPLICANT(S) Mark Weissenborn et al.	
	FILING DATE	GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE
		6 3 1 8 7 7 5	11/20/2001	Heatherington et al.			
		6 2 1 7 0 8 9	04/17/2001	Goto et al.			
		6 1 7 9 3 5 3	01/30/2001	Heatherington et al.			
		6 1 6 5 5 8 8	12/26/2000	Wycech			
		6 1 3 8 4 2 9	10/31/2000	Baumgaertner			
		6 0 4 2 1 6 3	03/28/2000	Reiffer			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION
							Y N
		5 6 3 5 4 8	10/06/1993	EPO			
		6 2 8 6 5 3 6	10/11/1994	Japan			
		2 4 4 9 1	02/02/1993	Japan			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
		Publication No. 2001/0017473 A1, Inventor Yamamoto, Publication Date 08/30/2001, Title BUMPER BEAM

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE
		6	0	0	3	9	1	2	12/21/1999	Schonhoff et al.			
		6	0	0	0	7	3	8	12/14/1999	Stewart et al.			
		5	9	9	7	0	5	8	12/07/1999	Pedersen			
		5	8	5	7	7	3	4	01/12/1999	Okamura et al.			
		5	8	1	3	7	1	8	09/29/1998	Masuda et al.			
		5	7	9	9	9	9	1	09/01/1998	Glance			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION	
													Y	N
			2	2	7	7	5	0	10/08/1991	Japan				
			2	4	0	3	2	2	09/25/1989	Japan				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
		Publication No. 2003/0132640 A1, Inventor Weissenborn et al., Publication Date July 17, 2003, Title BUMPER ENERGY ABSORBER WITH FOAM AND NON-FOAM PIECES

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE
		5	7	8	5	3	7	6	07/28/1998	Nees et al.			
		5	7	5	6	1	6	7	05/26/1998	Tamura et al.			
		5	6	7	2	4	0	5	09/30/1997	Plank, Jr. et al.			
		5	5	6	0	6	6	2	10/01/1996	Apgar, Jr. et al.			
		5	5	4	5	3	6	1	08/13/1996	Rosasco			
		5	5	4	5	0	2	2	08/13/1996	Rosasco			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION	
													Y	N
				6	6	0	0	8	03/13/1989	Japan				
		1	3	8	2	6	9	3	03/23/1988	Soviet Union				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
		U.S. Application No. 10/163,838 filed on June 6, 2002 entitled BUMPER WITH INTEGRAL ENERGY ABSORBER AND BEAM

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		5	5	4	0	0	1	6	06/30/1996	Clausen			
		5	4	2	5	5	6	1	06/20/1995	Morgan			
		5	4	0	7	2	3	9	04/18/1995	Arai et al.			
		5	4	0	4	9	7	4	04/11/1995	Thum et al.			
		5	3	8	5	3	7	5	01/31/1995	Morgan et al.			
		5	3	4	0	1	7	8	08/23/1994	Stewart et al.			

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EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION	
													Y	N
			1	6	9	3	5	0	07/31/1986	Japan				
			1	7	2	6	0	3	08/04/1986	Japan				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
		U.S. Application No. 10/163,586 filed on June 6, 2002 entitled BUMPER SYSTEM WITH FOAM AND NON-FOAM COMPONENTS

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		5	2	7	7	4	6	9		01/11/1994	Klippel			
		5	2	3	2	2	6	1		08/03/1993	Kuroda et al.			
		5	2	1	9	1	9	7		06/15/1993	Rich et al.			
		5	1	8	0	6	2	9		01/19/1993	Terada et al.			
		5	1	5	4	4	6	2		10/13/1992	Carpenter			
		5	1	2	4	1	8	6		06/23/1992	Wycech			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER								DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION	
														Y	N
		3	3	4	3	7	0	9		06/20/1984	Germany				
		2	0	2	7	5	1	6		02/20/1980	UK				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
		U.S. Application No. 10/208,300 filed on July 30, 2002 entitled BUMPER FOR REDUCING PEDESTRIAN INJURY

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	5 0 9 2 5 1 2	03/03/1992	Sturru et al.			
	5 0 4 0 3 9 9	08/20/1991	Knapper et al.			
	5 0 0 5 8 8 7	04/09/1991	Kelman			
	4 9 7 8 5 6 2	12/18/1990	Wycech			
	4 9 4 0 2 7 0	07/10/1990	Yamazaki et al.			
	4 8 6 2 6 6 6	09/05/1989	Kero			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION
						Y N
	6 4 5 7 2 1	11/08/1950	UK			
	7 6 6 1 8 6	06/22/1934	France			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
		Publication No. 2002/0149214 A1, Inventor Evans, Publication Date 10/17/02, Title BUMPER SYSTEM WITH FACE-MOUNTED ENERGY ABSORBER

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	4 8 5 6 8 3 3	08/15/1989	Beekman			
	4 8 1 1 9 7 9	03/14/1989	Peter et al.			
	4 7 9 6 9 4 6	01/10/1989	Wilson et al.			
	4 7 8 3 1 0 4	11/08/1998	Watanabe et al.			
	4 7 1 5 6 3 0	12/29/1987	Manning			
	4 7 1 4 2 8 7	12/22/1987	Merkle			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION	
						Y	N
	4 0 0 7 5	04/20/1932	France				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL	
	Publication No. 2002/0149213 A1, Inventor Weissenborn, Publication Date 10/17/02, Title BUMPER SYSTEM WITH FACE-ABUTTING ENERGY ABSORBER

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		4 6 8 4 1 6 6	08/04/1987	Kanodia			
		4 5 7 8 9 7 9	04/01/1986	Abe et al.			
		4 4 3 3 5 6 5	02/28/1984	Preller			
		4 4 2 2 6 8 0	12/27/1983	Goupy			
		4 4 1 3 8 5 6	11/08/1983	McMahan et al.			
		4 3 8 6 7 9 9	06/07/1983	Molnar			

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EXAMINER INITIAL		
		Exhibit A (2001) includes four pictures of a prior art vehicle bumper system on a Ford Focus model vehicle, which includes a steel beam and an energy absorber that wraps around ends of the beam. The energy absorber includes a lower-density black foam body and has several higher-density white foam blocks inset into an inner surface of the black foam. (Note: Photo 1 shows an "extra" energy absorber loosely setting on a rear bumper system of a Ford Focus, the "extra" energy absorber being reversed to show its inner surface with the white foam blocks exposed.)

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		4	3	6	1	3	5	2	11/30/1982	Wakamatsu			
		4	3	3	3	6	7	4	06/08/1982	Buettner et al.			
		4	3	2	0	9	1	3	03/23/1982	Kuroda			
		4	3	1	7	3	5	0	03/02/1982	Sivachenko et al.			
		4	2	9	1	5	6	4	09/29/1981	Muckli			
		4	2	4	8	0	7	2	02/03/1981	Hasegawa et al.			

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		4	2	4	1	1	4	6		12/23/1980	Sivachenko et al.			
		4	2	3	3	8	3	3		11/18/1980	Balinski			
		4	2	2	5	1	6	7		09/30/1980	Buettner et al.			
		4	2	2	1	4	1	3		09/09/1980	Bonnetain			
		4	1	6	5	1	1	3		08/21/1979	Casse			
		4	1	1	1	4	7	8		09/05/1978	Pompei et al.			

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		4 0 9 5 8 3 1	06/20/1978	Hagiwara et al.			
		4 0 6 6 2 8 5	01/03/1978	Hall et al.			
		4 0 2 2 5 0 5	05/10/1977	Saczawa, Jr.			
		4 0 1 3 3 1 7	03/22/1977	Reidelbach et al.			
		3 9 8 9 2 9 2	11/02/1976	Bank et al.			
		3 9 0 2 7 4 8	09/02/1975	Bank et al.			

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	3 8 8 4 5 1 7	05/20/1975	Davidson			
	3 8 2 7 7 4 0	08/06/1974	Golze et al.			
	3 7 7 7 4 3 8	12/11/1973	Brown			
	3 7 6 8 8 5 0	10/30/1973	Barton et al.			
	3 7 6 2 1 9 5	10/02/1973	Kitanosono et al.			
	3 5 9 6 9 6 3	08/03/1971	Phillips			

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	3 3 9 2 5 6 6	07/16/1968	Sporck			
	2 7 3 4 4 0 7	02/14/1956	Smith			
	2 3 7 1 6 7 1	03/20/1945	Blount et al.			
	1 9 5 2 5 4 5	03/27/1934	Gotshall			
	1 9 2 7 4 4 2	09/19/1933	Laufle			
	1 4 9 9 9 8 6	07/01/1924	Kirsch			

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	1 4 2 9 0 6 1	09/12/1922	Coe			
	R E 1 5 2 5 5	12/27/1921	Limacher			
	1 3 6 2 4 3 9	12/14/1920	Roberts			
	1 2 4 7 5 6 9	11/20/1917	Palmer			
	8 3 1 7 5 5	09/25/1906	Husham			
	6 4 2 8 0 6 4	08/06/2002	Frederick			

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	6 4 0 6 0 8 1	06/18/2002	Mahfet et al.			
	6 2 7 6 1 0 5	08/21/2001	Wycech			
	5 4 3 1 4 6 4	07/11/1995	Jones et al.			
	5 1 3 9 2 9 7	08/18/1992	Carpenter et al.			
	4 5 9 2 5 8 0	06/03/1986	Stanganelli et al.			
	4 4 6 6 6 4 6	08/21/1984	Delmastro et al.			

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		4	2	5	2	3	5	5	02/24/1981	Goupy et al.			
		4	1	9	3	6	2	1	03/18/1980	Peichl et al.			
		2	6	8	5	2	6	9	08/03/1954	Manson			
		2	6	0	6	7	5	5	08/12/1952	Samuels			
		2	5	6	6	6	0	5	09/04/1951	Ekornaas			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION	
													Y	N

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	